NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM ENGLAND.

LONDON, JUNE 12, 1847.

I know not how to commence my present communication more appropriately than by a brief survey of some of the principal new publications; more particularly since several of them connect themselves, either by authorship or subject, with the United States. The time has long past when an English reviewer scornfully asked, "Who reads an American book?" It has been discovered that good books are produced beyond the Atlantic, and the large importations made by Messrs. Wiley & Putnam and Mr. Chapman, of the works of American authors, are convincing proofs of the estimation in which they are held. The cause of authors and of authorship on both sides of the water would be most materially served by the passage of an international law of copyright, and a very annoying source of irritability and unkind feeling would be dried up. When you have made a new President, and got rid of the War with Mexico—for I am afraid the latter will at least continue until the former takes place—perhaps you will have time to attend to it. Silence this outcry of that "*genus irritabile*," the book-makers, and let the number of *Repudiating States* be diminished so far as possible, and John Bull will scarcely be able to pick a hole in any part of Brother Jonathan's coat, unless it be respecting the ugly subject of slavery; and, I think, if this was not kept alive here by renegades from the United States, it would soon be left to the management of those who are most concerned with and affected by it. The *fact* would continue to be lamented, but it would cease to be descanted upon by ignorant demagogues and empirical philanthropists on this side the Atlantic.

But to the Books. And, first, we have a very handsome London edition of Mr. Prescott's "History of the Conquest of Peru." Very favorable criticisms have been given of this work. It is said to be "equally full of interest, equally fruitful in 'display of character, and equally rich in the lessons which History reads to Philosophy" with the author's history of Mexico, which was spoken of in the very highest terms. Mr. Prescott's style is pronounced "highly graphic and picturesque, 'and consequently very attractive." And, again, "The theme is admirably adapted to his rich and 'copious style, for it has more than the romance of 'any fiction, so called, and more of poetry than ever 'poet feigned." "Audubon's Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America" is described as the "most 'magnificent work in natural history which America, probably *the world*, has yet produced." Miss Fuller's "Sketch of Carlisle" is called "a brilliant 'piece of character writing, throwing light upon his 'peculiarities, and, among other things, explaining 'his novel and wilful opinions on the poets."

The indefatigable Mr. Macgregor has just published a work, entitled "*The Progress of America*," in two large octavo volumes of about fifteen hundred pages each, exhibiting in the most condensed form a vast amount of geographical, political, historical, and statistical information. This truly valuable work, from its size and price, and from the nature of its contents, cannot be expected to find its way into the hands of the mass of the people, but the sentiments which the liberal-minded author expresses towards the United States cannot be too widely disseminated throughout that country, as exhibiting not only Mr. Macgregor's feelings and wishes, but those which belong to every enlightened Englishman. Before quoting Mr. Macgregor it will be quite apposite to give a sentence or two from a notice of the book in that very clever periodical, the "*Athenæum*:"

"It is impossible to glance at the progress of America," says the Athenæum, "without feeling impressed by the high destinies of the Anglo-Saxon race, and the contrast which they afford to the fate of the French and Spaniards in the New World. Europe may be said generally to exhibit two types of civilization—the Latin and the Teutonic; for the Sclavonic more properly belongs to Asia. In the New World, the Latin type, represented by the Spaniards, conquered the natives by the sword; while the Teutonic, represented by the English, subdued Nature itself by the industrial arts. The achievements of the former were the more brilliant, those of the latter the more enduring. France, in which the two types are united, no longer holds sway on the American continent; and it is probably for want of such an intermediate that the Latin and Teutonic types have been brought into collision at their chief point of contact, the frontiers of America."

In another part of the same article in the Athenæum it is said:

"The Anglo-Saxon race has won its position of pre-eminence in the Old and New Worlds because it has been urged forward by the spirit of industry, invention, production, navigation, and trade. The English and American branches of that race are united by community of language, of liberal institutions, of religious freedom, and of industrial perseverance. The *disunion* of these two branches, the disruption of such sacred ties, *would throw back the civilization of mankind to a distance to be measured by centuries*. Both races have reached the Pacific, and brought European civilization face to face with the presence of the older civilization of China and Japan. Another generation will not pass before the ports of California and Oregon will receive the produce of the opposite extreme of Asia, and render impossible the maintenance of exclusion by the Chinese and Japanese."

I have *italicised* a few words in this extract, because I think the importance of the truth which they inculcate cannot be too strongly impressed upon the mind of every one.

The following is the conclusion of Mr. Macgregor's remarks. They are the sentiments of every enlightened Englishman and every intelligent American:

"If there be one course of policy more than another which we would advocate—to which we would devote our labors, in order to aid in obtaining the only certain *guaranty* of peace and friendship between two great nations, who in language and race are one people—that course of policy is to establish the *least possible* restrictions on the interchange of the commodities of the one country in the other—upon the arrival at, remaining in, and departing from of the ships and citizens of America in every British port and place in the universe—of British ships and subjects in every port and place within the American regions. If ever the history of the world presented two States in a position and condition to do each other the utmost possible good or the greatest possible evil, such are the actual positions and actual conditions of the United Kingdom and the United States. These constitute subjects of serious consideration for the Governments and for the people of both England and America. Awful, indeed, would be the consequence, if those wild or foolish politicians, who, from ignorance, vanity, ambition, or with more dangerous and unprincipled designs, would involve the British and American Powers in the certain calamities of war, by misguiding the people and the Governments of both countries. Civilization in America and in Europe would for the time be paralyzed: and not only the present generation, but succeeding ones, would suffer grievously by an interruption of peace and intercourse between the members of a great family, who, though divided as to their Governments, are nevertheless, in spite of their respective prejudices, bound together as one people, by the inseparable union of speaking the same language, of being educated in schools in which the same lessons are taught, and trained at firesides where the mothers instil into their children the same virtues by reading the same literature: by studying similar laws, professing generally the same religion, cherishing the same domestic associations, practising from hereditary and common usage the same manners: by having until a very late period a common history, in short, by inheriting their vices and virtues, their folly and wisdom in common. It has been the long and serious consideration of these grave circumstances, which has at all times urged, and does and will hereafter urge us to advocate and promote every measure which materially, morally, and honorably can strengthen the ties that will bind and maintain in peaceful harmony the whole British Empire and the United States of America."

Mr. Macgregor's work is a *great summary* of such facts as enforce the above argument, and to which we subscribe our full assent, with this *caveat*: each country must determine *for itself* what are the "LEAST POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS" to be placed upon commercial intercourse, because the conditions of the two countries are so very different that what would or might be the "*least possible*" in England and advantageous to its people might be the very opposite in America, and *vice versa*. All that is wanting, however, and all that Mr. Macgregor means, we apprehend, is, that both countries should infuse into their commercial policy as *much* liberality, and embarrass trade and intercourse with as *few* restrictions as upon the most enlightened consideration should appear to be compatible with the good of the people of each country respectively.

We must be allowed to extract further the following brief passage, as powerfully descriptive of the character of the people of the United States:

"The extraordinary power, wealth, and prosperity of Anglo-America are owing to a population which has increased in numbers with unexampled rapidity; possessing abundant employment and an untiring energy, industry, and self-reliance, animated at all times by a sleepless commercial and maritime spirit; with extraordinary intelligence as to all matters concerning the active affairs of the world; and a fearless perseverance in search of adventure, coupled with the passion for gain: all these are maintained by that feeling of independent action which civil liberty and religious freedom inspire."

Mr. Macgregor's view of the condition and prospects of the Spanish-American portions of the American continent is very interesting:

"The condition of Mexico is hopeless. This will appear (he says) fully detailed in the fourth book of the first volume of this work. Ignorance, the bigotry of the priesthood, the tenacity with which the race speaking the Spanish language inherit all the vices and forget most of the virtues of their ancestors; the retention too generally in practice of the vicious fiscal and commercial regulations of old Spain; the absolute decrease or the scarcely perceptible increase of the population; the want of enterprise, the prevalence of indolence and slovenly agriculture, and the absence of commercial habits, are far more than sufficient to account for the powerless condition of the Spanish-American Republics. It is a deplorable fact that the Spanish Republics are in an infinitely less prosperous condition than the slaveholding colonies of Cuba and Porto Rico: not that we consiber the peace of Cuba as likely to be permanent, for we believe, if the slave trade is not effectually abolished, that Cuba is destined to share the fate of Hayti."

Mr. Macgregor's observation respecting Cuba is a striking and important one. He is not a man to make such an assertion upon slight grounds, and the subject is fraught with much interest to your citizens.

Whilst upon the subject of books it may be as well to mention "*Men, Women, and Books*," by LEIGH HUNT. This is not a new book, but merely a reprint, in a collected form, of the various essays and occasional papers communicated by their amiable and veteran author to the periodicals of the day. The book is spoken of as being an exceedingly pleasant and agreeable one, not of much pretence, but every way worthy the author's reputation and the reader's notice.

Mr. DOUBLEDAY, the author of "A new view of Population," to which I have alluded in a former communication, has published "A Financial, Monetary, and Statistical History of England," which is spoken of very well by political economists of a certain class. He destroys the value of all paper currency at a blow by stating that "money is only valuable as the material of which it is made is valuable." If this be correct, how valueless are our Exchequer bills and your Treasury notes. He asserts, if not in so many words, by the unavoidable tendency of his arguments, that the national debt of England is *no debt* as respects any generation except that which contracts it. "A whole nation," he says, "cannot possibly be bound to a bargain of their ancestors." He quotes Mr. Jefferson in defence of this idea, where he (Mr. J.) says, "We 'may consider each generation as a distinct nation, 'with a right, by the will of the majority, to bind '*themselves*, but none to bind the *succeeding generation*" more than the "inhabitants of another country." Mr. Jefferson, however, did not recommend *repudiation*, for he lays it down as a fundamental rule "that no Government should borrow money without laying a tax, in the same instant, for paying the interest annually, and the *principal* within a given time; considering that tax as pledged to the creditors on the public faith." But Mr. Jefferson appears to have overlooked his own doctrine; for if no succeeding generation is bound by the act of the preceding one, what use to the creditor will be the pledging of a tax on the public faith, when the generation which has so pledged it has passed away?

Sir JAMES GRAHAM is said to have advocated the use of the "*sponge*" to *wipe* out the national debt, and Mr. DOUBLEDAY's remedy is "the *sweeping* it away;" but it is admitted that either "wiping out" or "sweeping away" is impracticable. There is not much room for English journalists to rail at some of the States in the Union for their having *postponed* the payment of the *interest* upon the State debts, when a British Minister of State has talked about "*the sponge*" *to wipe out*, and a respectable English writer on political economy recommends the *sweeping away* the *debt itself!* These things are not stated here in a recriminating or extenuating view, but with an intention of showing that it is easier to find fault with others than to avoid imitating them. Lord ASHBURTON has just published a very valuable pamphlet on "the Financial and Commercial Crisis." No one is better calculated than his lordship, from his age and experience, to be a counsellor on such a question, having witnessed, as he says, "so many visitations of commercial and financial distress." Lord A. is decidedly of opinion "that the general condition of commerce is sound and satisfactory," and attributes the existence of the present "difficulties to the derangement of our monetary system;" and says that such derangement has been occasioned mainly by the operations of the bank under "the terrors of the act by which it is fettered." The act alluded to is Sir Robert Peel's act of 1844 for the management of the bank, which is said by Lord A. "to be the substitution of machinery for human intelligence," preventing practical men, such as the bank directors may be supposed to be, from thinking and acting for themselves on any emergency; depriving them of the power of exercising any opinion, the rigid parliamentary machine being ordained to think and act for them. The entire tenor of Lord Ashburton's argument appears to be that Government has little to do with banking operations, beyond guarding the public against *the issue* of notes by irresponsible men, or the *too abundant* issue of them by the most responsible. All minor regulations, in fact every thing beyond a due regard to the public security, must be left to the sagacity of the receivers and the practical experience and integrity of the issuers of notes. Banking, like many other things, has been legislated upon too much, and it is highly probable that great modifications will be made in the act of 1844 early in the next session of Parliament.

There is not much novelty in the scientific world. A very interesting communication has been made by Professor Agassiz, who is now in the United States, to Professor Murchison, of Edinburgh, in which he says: "I think I made a lucky and quite 'an unexpected hit by tracing the close analogy 'between the *fossil* Flora of the European miocene deposites and the *living* Flora of the temperate parts of the United States of North America. The correspondence extends to all the 'types of organized beings." "Again, I may observe that there is the closest affinity between 'the Flora of the Atlantic shores of North America and that of Japan." "These observations," says Professor Murchison, "will prove of considerable value in enabling us to arrive at a just conclusion respecting the condition of the climate of 'Europe during the middle tertiary epoch."

A very instructive course of lectures on "*The Condition of the Sclavonic Nations*" is now delivering by Count Krazinski at Willis's Rooms, (London.) The lecturer states that "these nations constitute the 'most numerous race in Europe, and occupy the 'largest portion of its territory. A Sclavonian population of 80,000,000 is now living under the dominion 'Russia, Austria, Turkey, Prussia, and Saxony. 'The political and literary importance of the Sclavonians is rapidly increasing. A strong intellectual movement is now animating them, and is attended by a growing tendency toward a union. 'This tendency, designated *Panslavism*, is considered likely to lead to the establishment of a powerful confederacy." Certainly the union of eighty millions of people would be a most powerful confederacy; and one which, could it be brought about—a thing very much to be questioned, remembering the watchfulness and the power of existing Governments—would change the whole aspect of affairs in continental Europe.

The papers will have informed you of the death of Dr. CHALMERS. His character as a preacher and his worth as a man are known throughout the civilized world. But it is not so generally known that his published works extend to twenty-five volumes! Dr. C. was the first Presbyterian minister who obtained an honorary degree from the University of Cambridge; and one of the first Scotchmen who have been elected corresponding members of the Institute of France.

The Theatrical world still appears to contain only one object and one subject—the "*Swedish Nightingale!*" The theatrical critic of the Morning Chronicle is the only one who ventures to "damn with faint praise" this vocal wonder.

In one thing, and to her a most important one, she has, however, great pre-eminence; she is *better paid*. PASTA has repeatedly had 2,500 guineas for a season; and GRISI still more, besides the lucrative privilege of singing at private concerts. JENNY LIND has 5,000 guineas for the present season, with a superb residence at Brompton, equipage, servants, &c. gratuitously found her. She is not to sing in London, however, except at the Palace. She is described as bearing the honors of her miraculous success most meekly, being in no way elated, and quite indifferent to the flatteries of the great fashionable world. Going on or coming off the stage, she is exempted, by special arragement, from being addressed or congratulated by any stranger, no matter how exalted; and her wish for all the privacy compatible with her position is respected, and as rigidly enforced by Mr. Lumley as possible. This fully accords with all the reports of her modest, simple, and retiring character in private life that preceded her arrival here: all that rumor with its thousand tongues said of this gifted woman has been substantiated.

We have nothing new of a Domestic nature; the price of grain is oscillating gently up and down, but, on an average, about 5s. the bushel lower for wheat than when I wrote you last. Immense arrivals are expected from Odessa and the Black Sea; the promise of the coming harvest is, that it will be *early and good*. Rumors are strongly afloat respecting the potato disease having *again* appeared, but nothing is confirmed. Emigration still goes on upon a large and a yet increasing scale; that from Great Britain this year will be double the *usual* average. There is much money drawn out of the savings banks in France; it is said, principally by people withdrawing their little earnings to seek with them a transatlantic home; upwards of 900,000 francs were withdrawn from the banks in France in three days at the commencement of May, the deposites being only a trifle more than 500,000 francs in that time. The surplus of withdrawals over deposites in England is in about the same proportion. As things are *at present*, there is abundant reason for emigration from England. But I am glad to find that population does not yet tread *very closely* upon the heels of *possible* produce. Late returns tend to show that although there are at present about 45,000,000 of cultivated acres in the United Kingdom, there are at least half as much more susceptive of culture. Mr. ALLISON says: "The British isles alone, from their own soil, could 'maintain 120,000,000 of people on wheaten bread 'drawn from the arable land, and on butcher meat 'drawn from the pasture land." Many well-informed staticians held Mr. Allison's statements to be correct. If we reduce the capability of sustenance, as stated by him, to one-half, we need have no fear of present starvation.

Railroad speculation is still "going ahead" here; there have, however, been some terrible accidents lately, which shake the nerves of the timid when committing themselves to that mode of transit; more than seventy persons were killed by accidents on railroads during the three weeks preceding the 7th instant. We have plenty of means for employing spare capital, should other than railroads be preferred; for instance, there is the "*United Kingdom Artesian Water Company*," formed for the better supply of London with water; the capital of this company is £500,000. Already eight companies exist with an aggregate capital of £3,225,000. These companies supplied 314,553,000 hogsheads of water last year. The Artesian wells are calculated to produce more than twelve times this amount, or enough from the chalk bed upon which London is built to supply *all the people in Great Britain and Ireland*. Glass or porcelain pipes are to be used, and the expense to those using the purer water so supplied will not be more than one-third the present cost of the inferior article. The scheme is said to be very feasible, and stands well in the opinion of scientific men.

Another enterprise of a truly philanthropic description is the "*Suburban Village Association*," for the purpose of building villages in healthy situations within a short distance of the metropolis, and accessible by railways, consisting of houses and gardens for the residences of artisans and others of moderate income at reduced rents, including railway fare daily between their residences and their places of employment. The details of the plan are of the most benevolent, and apparently of the most practicable description. Lord Morpeth, Earl Denbigh, and many other philanthropic noblemen and gentry are on the committee for carrying this plan into execution.

Mr. BANCROFT lately attended a public meeting which was held for the purpose of erecting a monument to the memory of CAXTON, the *first* English printer, and made a speech upon the occasion full of liberal and enlightened sentiments. It is truly gratifying to the friends of *progress* to see Englishmen and Americans thus uniting in objects of this description. The monument will be near Westminster Abbey.

Candidates for seats in the next Parliament are busy canvassing nearly every county, city, and borough in the country. Two leading questions will occupy the *first* attention of that Parliament. One will be the corn laws. A strenuous effort is likely to be made by the protectionist *landocracy* to perpetuate the *four-shilling* duty established by Sir Robert Peel's corn law as a *minimum* until February, 1849. The second subject will be what has been termed "*free trade in land*," meaning the use of land *commercially*, and freeing it from the feudal trammels by which it is now incumbered. This involves all such questions as tenant right, leases, the law of distress for rent, and the abolition of the power to *entail* lands on unborn generations. Some fear is entertained of a deficiency in the revenue of the current quarter, which will terminate with the present month. I know not upon what the fear is founded. The following statistics, *taken altogether*, would not point to such a result:

The COTTON imported during the first three months of 1846 was.................	98,000,000 lbs.
Do. do. do. do of 1847	83,000,000 lbs.

The quantity of wool, hemp, and dye-stuffs used was also much diminished.

The COFFEE consumed in the first three months of 1846 was.................	8,100,000 lbs.
Do. do. do. do. of 1847	9,600,000 lbs.
SUGAR consumed in the first three months of 1846...........................	117,400,000 lbs.
Do. do. do. do. of 1847	134,000,000 lbs.
TEA increased in consumption in a similar proportion.	
CATTLE imported first four months of 1845..........	2,791
Do. do. do. do. of 1846.........	14,753
Do. do. do. do. of 1847.........	25,660

Of all other articles of daily consumption the quantities imported in the first four months of the present year exhibit a very striking contrast with those imported in the same period of former years:

		1845.	1846.	1847.
Grain of all kinds,	qrs.	227,045	820,474	2,266,413
Flour and meal,	cwt.	15,764	717,631	1,893 456
Provisions of all kinds,	cwt.	43,846	61,826	115,765
Butter,	cwt.	61,730	49,354	82,928
Cheese,	cwt.	76,229	77,936	100,739
Rice,	cwt.	84,894	137,701	370,517

The imports of grain from April 5th to May 5th was 931,175 quarters, and of flour and meal 628,026 cwt. There were also imported during the same time 27,805 cwt. of provisions, 8,054 head of live cattle, 35,437 cwt. of butter, 28,041 cwt. of cheese, and 155,303 cwt. of rice: quantities which have never been equalled at any former time whatever, and which show in the most forcible manner how exceedingly deficient our own supplies must have been, since, even with these immense foreign supplies, the prices of all articles of food have been most distressingly high.

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THE COCA OF PERU.

FROM THE "NORTH AMERICAN."

The "Travels in Peru" in 1838-42, by Dr. J. J. Von Tschudi, a German savant, of which a translation has recently appeared in London, (not yet reprinted in the United States,) supplies a great deal of interesting intelligence about the country, of some portions of which we feel inclined to avail ourselves for the benefit of the readers of the North American and United States Gazette. And, first of the *Coca*—the Peruvian intoxicating drug, the most singular and efficient, and apparently the least destructive of all the care-killing poisons to which, as to alcohol, opium, hemp, ava, &c., men are so prone to form a vehement attachment. Various notices of this drug appear in the works of Peruvian travellers, as in the "Three Years in the Pacific" of Dr. Ruschenberger, United States Navy, formerly of this city, who brought home, and, we believe, deposited a specimen among the collections of the Academy of Natural Sciences. The account given by Von Tschudi is the most recent and the fullest that we have seen, and has indeed the merit of having been drawn up among the *coca-chacras* or coca plantations in the hot mountain valleys east of the city of Lima, where it is cultivated with particular success, and where it yields three crops a year.

The plant (*Erythroxylon coca* of the botanists) is a small shrub of six feet high—the part used is the dried leaves. These are chewed like tobacco; but the amateur improves the natural flavor (which is similar to that of "the worst kind of green tea") by the addition of a little quicklime or the alkaline ashes of certain plants. The *coqueros*, or chewers, who include all the mountain Indians and laboring classes, and not a few of the gentry of Peru, take it at intervals, three or four times a day, and consume from an ounce to an ounce and a half in the twenty four hours. The practice of chewing the coca is reprobated as being highly ungenteel, and accordingly people of fashion indulge the propensity in secret. The attachment once formed, as in the case of other narcotic poisons, the coquero "finds it difficult, indeed almost impossible, to relinquish it."

"The operation of the coca," says Dr. Von Tschudi, "is similar to that of narcotics administered in small doses." He compares the effects to those produced by the *tonga*, or Peruvian thorn-apple, and those by opium. "In the effects consequent on the use of opium and coca there is this distinction, that coca, when taken even in the utmost excess, never causes a total alienation of the mental powers or induces sleep; but like opium it excites the sensibility of the brain, and the repeated excitement, occasioned by its intemperate use after a series of years, wears out mental vigor and activity." Large doses dilate the pupil of the eye and produce intolerance of light.

What is most astonishing about the coca is, that it is almost an absolute substitute for *food*; that it confers an actual power of enduring severe and long protracted labor; and that, although undoubtedly pernicious when indulged in to great excess, its ordinary use is productive of only minor evils. All who chew it have "a bad breath, pale lips and gums, greenish and stumpy teeth, and an ugly black mark at the angles of the mouth;" and an inveterate coquero is known at the first glance by "his unsteady gait, his yellow colored skin, his dim and sunken eyes encircled by a purple ring, his quivering lips, and his general apathy." But, "setting aside all extravagant and visionary notions," says the author, "I am clearly of the opinion that the moderate use of the coca is not merely innoxious, but that it may even be very conducive to health;" a position supported by reference to the longevity of Indians, coqueros from boyhood.

"That the coca," he adds, "is in the highest degree nutritious is a fact beyond dispute. The incredible fatigues endured by the Peruvian infantry with very spare diet, but with the regular use of the coca; the laborious toil of the Indian miner, kept up, under similar circumstances, throughout a long series of years, certainly afford sufficient ground for attributing to the coca leaves not a quality of mere temporary stimulus, but a powerful nutritive principle. Of the great power of the Indians in enduring fatigue with no other sustenance than coca, I may here mention an example. A Cholo of Huari, named Hatum Huamang, was employed by me in very laborious digging. During the whole time he was in my service, viz. *five days and nights, he never tasted any food, and took only two hours sleep nightly*. But at intervals of two and a half or three hours he regularly masticated about half an ounce of coca leaves, and he kept an *acullico* (or quid) continually in his mouth. I was constantly beside him, and therefore I had the opportunity of closely observing him. The work for which I engaged him being finished, he accompanied me on a two days' journey of twenty-three leagues across the level heights. Though on foot he kept up with the pace of my mule, and halted only for the *chaccar*, (or chewing.) On leaving me he declared that he would willingly engage himself again for the same amount of work; and that he would go through it without food if I would but allow him a sufficient supply of coca. The village priest assured me that his man was *sixty-two years of age*, and that he had never known him to be ill in his life."

The coca is the best preventive of the difficult respiration felt in the rapid ascents of the Cordillera, as Von Tschudi bears witness from "his own personal experience." He drank the infusion, which enabled him "during the whole day to climb the heights, and follow the swift-footed wild animals," at an elevation of 14,000 feet above the sea, with as much ease as if hunting on the coast. Nor did he suffer from symptoms of cerebral excitement or uneasiness of any kind, and the usual returns of hunger were retarded.

The coca was indulged in by the Peruvian Indians in the remotest times. It was employed in their religious ceremonies, and is still connected with some of their secret and deep-rooted superstitions. The clergy and the public authorities, therefore, endeavored to extirpate its use in vain; the miners and landholders found that the Indians could not labor without it; and now the use is not only permitted, but, despite the edicts of the fashionable against it, recommended by Peruvian philosophers, and the plant itself is regarded by a calm and judicious German physician as "a great blessing to Peru."

We are surprised that our American medical savans have not caused it to be imported for experimental purposes. It is manifest that a substance possessing such properties, regarded as a medicine merely, must be capable of numerous important applications in disease. It is equally clear that, as forming a part of the stores for seamen and travellers, (as on long voyages and on the route to Oregon and California,) it might supply the means of sustaining life and effort amid the horrors of shipwreck and the desert. The price at Tarma, near the plantations, averages twenty-four cents a pound; and this would doubtless be doubled when brought to the United States. But when we remember that an ounce or two makes a full day's supply, it cannot be denied that it would be a cheap resource, whether as a medicine or a preventive of starvation.

LOCUSTS.—These strange visiters have made their appearance in many parts of our country again. In Henderson, McDowell, Rutherford, &c. millions of them have made the welkin ring with their merry song for weeks past. The whole earth seems to have been perforated by them in their escape from it, which they have so long inhabited. It has been just seventeen years since they appeared before where they now are. They extend within eight miles of Asheville on the south and east. It is said that they remain but forty days; if so, their day of probation will pass away during the present week. They have created a perfect harvest for hogs, squirrels, turkeys, geese, &c., and even dogs eat them! Their bodies are black and their wings, four in number, a light transparent color. They kill a great deal of young growth, mostly chestnut, sourwood, chinquepin, and fruit trees.

[*Highland (N. C.) Messenger.*

TO THE EDITORS.

GENTLEMEN: I have had much pleasure in perusing in your columns a communication from Mr. R. RICHARDSON, of Bethany, Virginia, suggesting that descriptions of countries suited to settlers be published in newspapers for the benefit of all concerned. I think the idea good, and that benefit would ensue, and to that end beg to lay before you the following, which please publish in the Intelligencer if you approve:

I would call the attention of foreign immigrants and our native citizens who desire a new home (especially if with a view to agricultural pursuits) to a range of country on both sides of Rock river, extending, say twenty to thirty miles on each side, and from the Mississippi to its (Rock river's) source, especially that part beginning about Whitesides county and extending northeasterly into Wisconsin, as being more favored with the combinations so requisite for making a good farm than any other section of equal extent it has been my good fortune to see. The combinations alluded to are, soils unusually rich, deep (three and four feet loam) prairie, gently sloping or rolling, to ensure adequate draining. These prairies are covered with a rich nutritious native grass, that fattens the animals for the butchers, and makes a hay equal to the tame grasses—cutting over two tons to the acre. This land is worked with little labor, in fact no more than subdued land that is down to grass; no clearing of timber and stumps before crops may be put in the ground, but the plough may at once be applied as upon a farm long worked. Thus a settler may have crops of various grain, &c. the first year, and in quantity and quality fully equal to the richest land in similar latitudes—say about 41°—so all grains, plants, fruits, &c. thrive well, more particularly wheat, maize, rye, barley, oats, beans, pease; also the various roots, far, very far better; larger crops than I have ever known upon an average in England or other sections of the United States. Timber is not so abundant as elsewhere, but there is enough, with the improved modes of fencing. It is generally dotted about the prairies in *groves*, more or less extensive, and adds much in this way to the beauty of the scenery and keeping down disease, in contrast with dense murky forests, as in Michigan, for example. Then, wherever the prairie is *not* cultivated and fire is kept out, various forest trees spring and grow up with a rapidity that surprises even the oldest settlers. I have some hundred acres where not a tree was visible in 1843 now covered with young oaks of various kinds, hickory, ash, black walnut, elm, &c., some of which grew about six feet the first season. Then there are springs of the purest water, with brooks that carry off the flowings of the springs, which never fail and rarely freeze. The surface of this tract lies elevated, and therefore drains perfectly—a spot of stagnant water or swamp is rare. The *roads* are good, excellent at all seasons, except during a week or two when frost is leaving. Even in England roads are *not* better than in this rich and beautiful valley of Rock river, which throughout wears the appearance of park and lawn and farm, with the mingling of the verdant prairies, groves, openings, or barrens; through the latter you may drive with as much pleasure as though much expense and labor had been bestowed upon them.

Around are abundance of flouring and saw-mills, also stores and mechanics, with villages and schools. The State has a large fund for the support of schools. Post offices are as frequent as is desirable, and post-coaches traverse the country in every direction, on many routes daily each way and on others thrice per week. Letters from New York reach us in eight to ten days, and I have received a letter from England in twenty-one days after it was mailed there.

The canal that is to unite Lake Michigan with the Mississippi will, I believe, be in operation next spring, and it runs within about forty miles of the spot where I have "pitched my tent," after seeing much of the four quarters of our globe, giving it preference to all other places. The climate is far brighter and more joyous than Italy, especially summer; for there are no siroccos, no sultry days, as within the tropics; a fresh exhilarating breeze arises soon after the sun, giving a temperature more delicious than I have enjoyed elsewhere. Then such quantities of game and fish, however ardent for field sports or the gentle Walton's craft, you may satiate here; where those to whom busy, bustling, heartless intercourse are not requisite, may find rational contentment and invest their means satisfactorily for themselves and heirs, seeing it improve in value with a rapidity and *certainty* rarely found elsewhere. Here we drive all over the country or ride on one large field of grass, undulating, it is true, but rarely so much as to inconvenience—now and then we must wind to right or left to clear a fence. Rock river is not one of the grandest but is one of the most beautiful rivers I have seen. It winds its way some two hundred and fifty miles through the country alluded to, and its high banks, with now and then a perpendicular bluff of limestone of two hundred feet or more, then a grassy slope, covered with park-like forest trees, rarely, and then for a very limited space, spreading itself into bayous. This river has been surveyed, and will ere long be made navigable, and with a canal from near its source to Lake Michigan, will unite the great Lakes with the "Father of Waters." Two paths for railroads have been surveyed, and it is believed that they will be commenced by 1848-9, if not sooner. Then we may reach New York in sixty hours!

The scenery is unsurpassed for beauty, though not partaking of the grand; yet, not the less pleasing or various, for all around partakes of the *utile* as well *dulce*. Views of fifteen to thirty miles are frequent, and a change of position of a mile or two gives new views, as does apparently a change of the atmosphere. I know of no place or country into which I would attempt to draw an invalid friend, with hopes of favorable influence in preference to this, from May to November.

I hope the approaching Convention at our commercial mart may tend to attract more attention to this greatly favored section. Conveyance from Chicago throughout the State is abundant, thanks to the enterprise of Col. Frink, the pioneer of stage coaches in *this West*. In 1840 the population of Illinois was about 460,000; in 1845 about 642,000; and since then the increase has been more than in a ratio, so that I believe in 1850 it will not fall short of 900,000 or perhaps one million. What will it amount to in 1860, with such unbounded natural resources in soil for cultivation; in her lead mines, and, above that here, inexhaustible fields of bituminous coal. Lyell, the geologist, stated before the *savans* in England that Illinois had *more coal than England and Wales!*

When our means of transit are adequate, say probably in 1850-3, Illinois will become known, and it will be seen that her products will exceed three and four fold the quantity at present.

The Convention now in session for amending the constitution have, by a decisive vote of two to one, shown that the Egyptian rule of darkness has passed away, and we shall now merge into comparative wisdom in affairs of Government. They decided by that vote *not* to prohibit banking by a clause in the new constitution, which was one of the tricks of locofocoism. The people have felt the want of means, and have *now* learnt how to remedy the pressure: thus has gone down the greatest hobby and humbug of that doomed party. There were supposed to be twelve more Locos in the Convention than Whigs.

Better times are coming for Illinois, and the time is now at hand; one more election for our Legislature (elections are biennial) next year and our State will take a position far above her present one. She will tax and commence paying, and in sums worthy of notice. Something more than ex-Gov. Ford's $30,000! All signs of late indicate so much, and more. The *north* (of our State) will be in the ascendant as to population in 1850, (in contradistinction to the south, or EGYPT!) Then wisdom—honor will predominate in her councils. The traveller would at once see a broad difference *now* between the north and south! I must cease this strain and return to my subject.

Around me, and all through this Rock River Valley, lie spots and farms combining all that is desirable for agriculture, stock, &c.—say rich fertile prairie, groves, barrens, springs, creeks, &c., as alluded to above, and at low prices, varying according to position, improvements, &c. from three dollars up to six, seven, and nine dollars per acre. But nucleuses are to be found with the above combinations that command 2,000, 5,000, up to 10,000 acres of the richest prairies, that may be entered at land offices at $1.25 per acre and added to the property, thus diminishing the average cost and forming a dozen or more large farms—nice for friends to settle and improve beside each other.

I have found sheep to thrive well here. My large flock has improved yearly as they became *acclimated*; *that* is the great difficulty in the way of success. Sheep driven in here from other climates, other feed, and too fast on the road, cannot but suffer much, and two or three years are requisite to make all right; then I believe there is no country superior for the animals and other stock. Besides, many persons seem to fancy sheep can take care of themselves; such of course are disappointed. I keep a number that justifies keeping a shepherd devoted *solely* to the flocks, and I am rewarded. Then I made war on the wolves and other varmints until they trouble me no more. When will our National Administration be able to say thus much of their unholy war on Mexico?

I shall be gratified in replying to letters making inquiries regarding this favored range of Illinois, or seeing persons who may visit this way, to whom I would afford all information in my power, and facilities, as horses and vehicles, for looking around. Indeed, I desire some of similar tastes and pursuits to settle around me, that we may be of mutual benefit.

There is a want of real good mechanics, such as can be relied on in all respects, especially faithful work, best materials, and PUNCTUALITY—such may earn large wages. There is an abundance of those *not* possessing the above requisites, of course more are *not* needed. I should be glad to meet a person of intelligence, agreeable and amiable, with some means, and acquainted with business generally, who would join me in my pursuits. I would show that it would prove advantageous. A desire of travelling now and then makes it desirable to have a party interested on the spot. I wish also for a real good farmer, who knows the whole duty, both of cultivation, rotation of crops, grasses, roots, &c.; also, care of stock, into which I go deeply—that has a place for every thing and every thing in its place. To such I would offer for carrying on my large farm (about 1,600 acres) such terms as he could not resist; and I invite such to come and see me without loss of time; for, should he not like carrying on any other than his own farm, I would sell him one of several very perfect ones I have, at a low price and on very easy terms, and also aid him in many ways useful to a new settler. Address

JOHN SHILLABER,
Grand de Tour, Ogle county, Illinois.

JUNE 25, 1847.

CITY NEWS.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS.—In this city and its vicinity there were numerous and highly interesting celebrations of the national anniversary, all of which, we are happy to state, passed off without accident or any unpleasant occurrence to mar the festivities of the day. Indeed, we do not remember ever to have witnessed, during the last twenty years, a festival where so much harmony, quiet, and sobriety prevailed as on our avenues and streets during last Monday, from sunrise till sunset.

Although there was no military parade or public procession of any kind by any of our public societies, the Sabbath scholars of this city and Georgetown celebrated the festival in the adjacent groves in a very spirited, handsome, and agreeable manner. The largest celebration of this kind that we have heard of took place in the garden and pleasant grounds attached to the mansion of the late Gen. Van Ness. Not less, we learn, than fifteen hundred persons united in this festival, of whom nearly one thousand were the Sunday scholars belonging to the Catholic churches of this city. A band of music enabled the young dancers on the green to enjoy themselves, as they did, to their heart's content. Refreshments were bountifully provided and served up to this numerous and highly delighted party.

The Sabbath Schools of the First Baptist Church (Rev. Mr. Brown's) and the E street Baptist Church, (Rev. Mr. Samson's,) with the choirs of the two churches, forming a company of about two hundred and fifty persons, united in the celebration of the day in the spacious and beautiful grove belonging to Joseph Gales, Esq., north of the city, to which place they proceeded in procession at an early hour in the morning. The day was most agreeably spent in exercises suitable to the occasion. The company was addressed by the Rev. Mr. Samson and by the Rev. Mr. Halsey, and were entertained by a variety of excellent singing by the combined choir and by the children; ample time was also afforded for social enjoyment, and for the recreation and amusement of the children.

The Sabbath Scholars attached to Wesley Chapel, a very numerous and happy party, celebrated the anniversary in Berry's woods. They had refreshments abundantly provided, and they amused themselves with many innocent pastimes in the interval of singing, recitations, and prayer. The day was spent in a very happy manner.

The Sabbath Scholars attached to Ryland Chapel, from that part of the city called the Island, celebrated the anniversary at Roche's Spring, not far from the Long Bridge. The children, teachers, and many of their parents, amounting to about five hundred persons, partook of an abundant collation, lemonade, and confectionaries. They had recitations, addresses, and vocal music to instruct and enliven them, all of which they greatly enjoyed.

The Sabbath Scholars attached to the several Sunday Schools of Georgetown united in a handsome procession and walked out with their teachers and parents to Parrott's woods, where they had abundant refreshments provided them. The Rev. Mr. Sewall and the Rev. Mr. Reese, of Baltimore, addressed the numerous assemblage in a very happy manner. All seemed delighted with the entertainment and manner of conducting it.

THE FIREWORKS, prepared by the order of the Secretary of War, under the direction of Mr. GOSTEN, United States Pyrotechnist, were exhibited on Monday night, about nine o'clock, on the Mall, south of the President's House. A dense mass of spectators (not less, we think, than 15,000 persons) witnessed this beautiful display, the brilliance and beauty of which surpassed any thing of the kind we ever before witnessed. All the devices were beautiful; but the final exhibition, representing the "Temple of Liberty," surmounted with the American Eagle, and inscribed "July 4th, 1776," with the word "Independence" below in characters of glorious and splendid light, was a *chef d'œuvre* of the pyrotechnic art, such as produced spontaneous and universal admiration.

The beautiful rockets discharged from the Arsenal were seen all over the District, and were grander than any we ever before saw. We understand the fireworks exhibited at the Arsenal were of a magnificent order.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE 4TH OF JULY AT GEORGETOWN COLLEGE took place on Monday, the 5th. A bright and pleasant day proved favorable to the attendance of the invited, who came in great numbers, consisting principally of lawyers, physicians, former students, literary gentlemen, and friends and patrons of the institution. A society from the Columbian College also attended with their banner. Many of the guests arrived at an early hour for the purpose of enjoying the beauty and coolness so remarkable throughout the extensive gardens of this classic retreat. At one o'clock P.M. the entire company, with prefects and students, marched in procession, preceded by the admirable College Band, to the large and tasteful hall, where the Declaration of Independence was read by Mr. Dublanc, of Louisiana, accompanied by some remarks, in most correct thought and eloquent language. The Oration was then pronounced by Mr. Donegan, of Alabama, which was heard with the most profound and admiring attention. Lively and patriotic music filled the pauses—before, between, and after the speeches. About three o'clock the guests sat down to a bountiful and luxurious banquet, prepared by the Faculty and Students. Here numerous and brilliant toasts were given and warmly applauded, and stirring addresses were delivered by the venerable G. W. P. Custis, Mr. Brockus, Mr. Crawford, and others, followed by exquisite music. Certainly the most remarkable speech on this occasion was by Mr. John Foy, of the "Republican Hotel," remarkable for its brevity—a desirable quality at dinners—and the nicely turned compliment. A toast was given, "To John Foy, of the lower house." That gentleman, after a little hesitation, being "unaccustomed to public speaking," rose to reply. He evidently was at a loss what to say, till, trusting to the mother-wit of an Irishman, he spoke nearly as follows: "Gentlemen: John Foy, of the lower house, thanks you, and is happy to find himself to-day in the *highest house* in which he ever was in his life—Georgetown College." At about six o'clock the company began to depart, well pleased with the entertainments of the day.

It was remarked that this celebration at the venerable Georgetown College was honored with the attendance of four venerable fathers, to wit: Father McElroy, (just returned from Mexico,) Father Mathews, Father Mulledy, and Father Coombs.